GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2698
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
CASES OF FEMALE FOETICIDE
Athawale Shri Ramdas;Bhagora Shri Mahavir;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sex determination test and female foeticide reported during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the prevalence of sex determination tests and female foeticide in different states and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the existing law to discourage the practice;and

(d) if so,the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) As per the reports received from the State/UT Governments up to 31.10.2008,116 cases relate to determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus and 35 cases pertain to advertisements about facilities of pre-conception/pre-natal sex selection in different States/UTs.

The concerned State Governments are regularly requested to take effective measures for speedy disposal of the ongoing cases.

(b) While it is difficult to determine prevalence of sex determination tests due to the absence of witness or evidence thereto,the Child Sex Ratio is one indication of the prevalence of female foeticide.A statement containing State/UT-wise Sex Ratio (No. of female per 1000 male) and Child Sex Ratio (No. of girls per 1000 boys in the age group of 0-6 years) during 1991 and 2001 is annexed.Some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the consistently low levels of sex ratio are son preference,neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide,female foeticide,higher maternal mortality and male bias in enumeration o f population.Easy availability of the sex determination tests and abortion services may also be proving to be catalyst in the process,which may be further stimulated by pre-conception sex selection facilities.

(c) & (d): Steps are afoot to further strengthen the PC & PNDT Act,1994 and the Rules framed thereunder in consultation with the legal experts and all the stake holders towards making penalty provisions for violators of the Act more stringent,including impostion of fine up to Rs.5 lakhs and incarceration up to 7 years upon conviction.